

CLAIMS

1. A collapsible container for the carriage or storage of goods, which container comprises:

– a generally rectangular base panel defining pairs of orthogonal length and width edges and having at least one hinge line extending between the width edges substantially parallel to the length edges and disposed in the central region of the base panel to divide the base panel into two side areas;

– a first side wall hinged to a first length edge of the base panel, the height of the side wall being not greater than one half of the length of a width edge of the base panel;

– a second side wall connected to the first side wall by opposed pairs of end walls hinged to the side walls, each end wall having a fold line disposed substantially centrally between the first and second side walls and substantially parallel to the common edges of the respective end and side walls; and

– connection means provided on the base panel and adapted to connect together the base panel and the adjacent edge of the second side wall, when the container is fully erected;

wherein the container may be erected by unfolding the first side wall to upstand from the base panel and straightening the end walls so that the side walls are spaced apart and extend along opposed length edges of the base panel, and operating the connection means to hold the container erected; and the container may be collapsed by folding inwardly both end walls to bring the side walls close together, hinging the side walls down to overlie one side area of the base panel, and then folding the other side area of the base panel about the base panel hinge line to lie parallel to the one side area.

2. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end walls have lower edges which lie alongside the base panel when the container is erected for holding goods and at least one of said lower edges is provided with means to connect to the base panel, to hold the container erected.

3. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 2, wherein the lower edges of both end walls are provided with means to connect to the adjacent part of the base panel.

4. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein said means to connect comprises a tab projecting from the lower edge of the respective end wall and which is receivable in a slot formed in the base panel adjacent the associated width edge thereof.
- 5 5. A collapsible container as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein there is a pair of parallel hinge lines formed in the central region of the base panel whereby a central area is defined between the two side areas, the central area extending substantially at right angles to the two side areas when the container is collapsed, to hold the two side areas spaced apart.
- 10 6. A collapsible container as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein there is formed in the base panel a further hinge line parallel to and spaced from the first length edge by a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the folded side and end walls.
7. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 5 and claim 6, wherein the
15 spacing of the further hinge line from the first length edge is substantially equal to the spacing between the pair of parallel hinge lines in the central region of the base panel.
8. A collapsible container as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the connection means provided on the base panel at or adjacent the
20 second length edge thereof are adapted to co-operate with the marginal region of the first side panel adjacent the hinged connection thereof to the base panel.
9. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 8, wherein said connection means comprises one or more releasable press-fasteners or press-studs having co-operating parts on the base panel and the side wall, respectively.
- 25 10. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 8, wherein said connection means comprises a two part hook-and-loop fastener with one part thereof on the base panel and the other part thereof on the side wall.
11. A collapsible container as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the connection means includes a strip hinged to the second length
30 edge of the base panel, one part of a two-part fastener being provided on the strip.

12. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 11, wherein the lower edge margin of the second side wall is provided with the other part of the fastener, whereby on erecting the container, the strip may be hinged upwardly to be connected to the lower edge of the second side wall.
- 5 13. A collapsible container as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein there is provided an internal transverse wall extending between the side walls part-way along the lengths thereof, the transverse wall having a fold line similarly disposed to the fold lines of the end walls whereby the transverse wall may be folded during collapsing of the container.
- 10 14. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 13, wherein there is provided an internal longitudinal wall which extends between the fold line of one end wall and the corresponding fold line of the transverse wall.
- 15 15. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 14, wherein there is provided at least one further transverse wall similar to said internal transverse wall and disposed between said transverse wall and the end wall.
16. A collapsible container as claimed in any of claims 13 to 15, wherein the or each transverse wall has a strip hinged to the ends thereof, which strips are adhesively bonded to the side walls.
- 20 17. A collapsible container as claimed in any of claims 13 to 15, wherein the or each transverse wall is hinged to the side walls by means of tabs provided on the end edges of the transverse walls engaging in slots formed through the side walls.
- 25 18. A collapsible container as claimed in any of claims 13 to 17, wherein the container is divided into separate compartments by the internal walls, the internal walls being configured to assist the storage of goods therein.
19. A collapsible container as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein there is provided a carrying handle projecting externally of the container from the base panel, part-way between the ends thereof.
- 30 20. A collapsible container as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein at least the base panel and the side and end walls are cut from plastics material sheet.

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21. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 20, wherein the plastics sheet comprises a double-walled corrugated extrusion.

22. A collapsible container as claimed in claim 1 and substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to and as illustrated in the
5 accompanying drawings.